

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-12, 15-18 and 19 remain in this application. Claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 15-18 have been withdrawn. New claim 19 has been added.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 3-6 and 14 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 15-18 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Claim 19 comes to present the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 14 in independent form.

§ 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 12, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that the limitation "actuating ring" in line 2 does not have sufficient antecedent basis.

Claim 8 is amended to now recite the limitation of "actuating element", which does have antecedent basis in claim 1 c).

§ 102(b) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, and 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,944,212 to Chang. The Examiner's assertions are respectfully traversed.

While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, the Applicant, in order to expedite the prosecution of this case, chooses to amend the claims to conform to the allowable material as specified by the Examiner. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable material of claim 3 and the intervening claim 2. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled and new claims 19, which is directed toward the allowable material of claims 14, and all of the

Appl. No. 10/725,007
Amdt. dated 15 June, 2005
Reply to Office action of 15 March, 2005

limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 13, has been added. Therefore, rebuttal of the Examiner's rejections is unnecessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 19, and hence dependent claims 4-12, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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